

the legislative body and I personally feel that we should increase it from the average \$75, probably to three to four hundred dollars. But we could box ourselves in a corner if the Legislature decides towards the waning days of the session instead of having a broad base expansion like 712 would do, we may have a real tight budget, and because of that, we may be in the position where we are going to have to make some drastic cuts. And this is one thing that the public hasn't had yet, they haven't received the \$75 average, which would be an average, so they wouldn't miss it. It does require 18 to 19 million dollars and would be one area that we should have out there, an option for a budget reduction towards the tail end. If we do recall and put 210 out, I would ask the Speaker to not place it on the agenda on General File right away or bring it up, to let it sit there until at least almost the first part of May to see what the body decides to do on 712 and other issues. With that, I would like to have, hopefully, 29 other votes beside myself to place 210 on General File.

PRESIDENT: Senator Johnson.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I think this is an important vote this morning because this vote really represents the harbinger, the robin, the first robin of the springtime, so to speak, regarding the issue much discussed and little rectified of property tax relief. The Revenue Committee killed LB 210 which is the bill that would repeal the general homestead provision that we adopted a year ago to allow every homeowner in our state an exemption of the first \$3,000 of valuation of the home from the property tax and we figured that that exemption was worth about \$75 per homeowner. Now that homestead exemption will cost the state about \$18 million and it is money we simply have to appropriate this time around to fund that homestead exemption. The Governor opposes that homestead exemption. He opposes it because he doesn't want us to appropriate \$18 million. The Appropriations Committee in its tentative budget has opposed the homestead exemption because the Appropriations Committee does not want us to appropriate \$18 million for property relief, property tax relief, when there are other worthy items out there such as the University of Nebraska funding and such as pay raises for state employees. Now I like the University of Nebraska and I like state employees but I have got trouble in River City in terms of property taxes. I